has been reported in some parts of the Country. As per the reports received upto 31-7-1984, there have been 4,69,285 cases of malaria against 4,31,563 cases reported during the corresponding period of last year. The rise in the incidence of malaria has been reported from some districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the Union Territory of Delhi.

2. The steps taken to control and contain malaria include spraying of insecticidies surveillance to detect cases, collection of blood smears, distribution of antimalarial drugs, a special programme for the containment of P. Falciparum and providing Malathion 25 per cent WDP on the basis of 100 per cent central assistance to States with established vector resistance.

Increase in Gujarat's quota of edible oils

*249. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enhance Gujarat's quota of edible oils for the rest of the current year in view of the proposed increase in imports thereof and the repeated demands from various quarters from that State; and

(b) whether Government are aware that large quantities of oil find their way into the black market; if so, what preventive measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from the Government of Gujarat for enhancement of the allocation of imported edible oils to that State. As the allocation of imported edible oils is made by the Central Government on a month to month basis, these requests will be kept in view while making the allocation for the months of September and October, 1984.

(b) No, Sir. The Central Government allocates imported edible oils to State Governments for issue through fair price shops. Thus, the actual distribution of oils to consumers is the responsibility of the State Governments. In order to curb blackmarketing in essential commodities including imported edible oils, the State Governments have been armed with wide powers under Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 to deal with such offenders. The penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 have also been made more stringent with the enactment of the 1981 Act. This amending Act *inter-alia* provides for summary trials of offenders for violation of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Instructions have also been given to States for taking action against blackmarketeers and hoarders.

Incidence of Leprosy in the Country

*250. SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to combat spread of leprosy in the country;

(b) the number of leprosy patients identified in the country so far; and

(c) the funds allotted for anti-leprosy measures during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) The combat the spread of Leprosy, Government have launched the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. The main thrust of the programme is early detection and regular treatment of Leprosy patients through a network of treatment centres.

2. Multi-Drug Regimen is being introduced in a phased manner in high endemic districts to effect an early cure, break transmission and render the disease non-infectious. Health Education, mobilisation of voluntary organisations and public involvement are important features of this programme.

3. The Seventh Five Year Plan proposals are still in the stage of formulation.

4. Allocation of resources for the programme has been increased from 348.86 lakhs in 1980-81 to Rs. 1500 lakhs in 1984-85. The position of number of leprosy patients at the end of March, 1984 is as follows:—

Number of cases registered at the beginning	.. 29.01 lakhs
Number of new cases added during 1983-84	.. 4.82 lakhs
Total number of cases registered	.. 33.38 lakhs
Total number of cases brought under treatment	.. 33.57 lakhs
Number of cases discharged during 1983-84	.. 2.84 lakhs
Balance number of cases under treatment at the end of March, 1984	.. 30.73 lakhs

Achievements in Irrigation Potential

*251. SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state the irrigation potential achieved so far *vis-a-vis* the target of 13.74 million hectares set for the Sixth Five-Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): The irrigation potential achieved upto the end of 1983-84 is estimated at 9.1 m. ha.

Warning against shortage of Vanaspati

*252. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of 17th July, 1984 to the effect that the Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association had warned of serious shortage of vanaspati in the country in the immediate future, based on the demand and supply assessment made by them;

(b) if so, the details of production of vanaspati from November, 1982 to October, 1983 against its requirement;

(c) what is the likely requirement of vanaspati in 1984-85; and

(d) what steps are being taken to meet this requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of vanaspati from November, 1982 to October, 1983 was 8.934 lakh tonnes, which is a reflection of its demand.

(c) Around 9 lakh tonnes. However, it is linked with the availability of indigenous edible oils.

(d) Government is supplying imported edible oils to the vanaspati industry to the extent of 60 per cent, at normal rates, of its requirement of raw edible oils in the manufacture of vanaspati. Apart from the above, the following steps have been taken to increase the production:—

(i) Increase in commercial rate allocation upto 20 per cent from August, 1984 onwards.

(ii) Increased allocation of imported oil to units having idle capacity and low production.